

immediate death. I had a headache the rest of the day, so great was the excitement . . .'. In Lord Jim, Stein heroically deals with an attempt on his life, calmly kills three of his attackers and then catches "*croseus*" by throwing his hat over the butterfly as it sat on a heap of dirt; his revolver in his other hand! Then he says, "When I got up I shook like a leaf with excitement, and when I opened these beautiful wings and made sure what a rare . . . specimen I had, my head went round and my legs became so weak with emoteion that I had to sit on the ground."

The Malay Archipelago was first published in 1869. *Lord Jim* was written in 1900. Interesting!— W.J. TENNENT, 1 Middlewood Close, Fylingthorpe, N. Yorkshire.

The Rothamsted farmland light trap network

As part of a three-year study in the Joint Agriculture and Environment Programme on farmland ecology a network of 26 standard Rothamsted Insect Survey light traps has been set up on the Rothamsted estate in Hertfordshire. The project involve an investigation into the movement and local distribution of Lepidoptera, particularly in relation to semi-natural farmland habitats. In addition to statistical analysis of trap catches, colleagues Dr Hugh Loxdale, Cliff Brookes and Ian Wynne will be using molecular techniques to study the genetic variability of certain Lepidoptera species from the samples.

An intensive local sampling programme of this type is unique and compliments the established national light trap network of the Rothamsted Insect Survey; indeed four of the 26 farm traps are long-established sites in the national scheme. In addition to the more detailed scientific analyses the project is already providing results of more immediate and general interest. This is particularly true with the current interest in climatic change allied to some very unusual seasonal weather patterns. Martin Townsend, an experienced macrolepidopterist, is identifying thr samples daily and we hope to extract and publish interesting observations on a regular basis.

Interesting Lepidoptera records for April 1990

The most unusual aspect of the catches for April was the advanced emergence of many species, undoubtedly due to the mild winter of 1989/90, followed by a generally warm spring. Records of the first individuals trapped are summarised below. The months in brackets represnt the usual emergence according to Skinner, B. (1984), *Colour Identification Guide to Moths of the British Isles*. Viking, Harmondsworth.

Xanthorhoe spadicearia D. & S. 29.iv (mid-May); *X. ferurugata* Cl. 26.iv (mid-May); *Eupithecia pulchellata* Steph. 11.iv (May); *Lomaspilis marginata* L. 29.iv (June); *Aethalura punctulata* D. & S. 23.iv (May); *Pheosia gnoma* Fabr. 9.iv; 23;iv (May); *P. tremula* Cl. 23.iv (May);

Diaphora mendica Cl. 1.iv and regularly from 16.iv (May); *Hadena rivularis* Fabr. 29.iv (one) (late May).

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Caloptilia rufipennella (Hübner) (Lep.: Gracillariidae) in Hampshire

A male of this species turned up in my garden trap in Portsmouth, Hampshire, in the summer of 1989. This species has a very peculiar distribution being found in the far north of England and Scotland, Eastern England and North Wales. Its appearance in the southern counties can only be welcomed. My thanks to John Langmaid for checking the genitalia of this specimen.— R. DICKSON, The Vicarage, Playfair Road, Portsmouth, Hants PO5 1EQ.

A chance find

Everybody has a bit of luck at some time or other and my modest chance came on the morning of 15th May 1990.

I was walking my dog early in the morning through local fields. The edge of one cornfield originally had a wire fence held on wooden posts, although today only the posts remain standing. Lepidopterists seem to have an urge to look at posts and as I was drawn towards them I noticed a large mass of chamomile growing behind. My first thought was of the Chamomile Shark, *Cucullia chamomillae* D. & S., a moth I had never encountered before. This was immediately followed by a sighting of a fine *chamomillae* resting at the bottom of the next post, six inches from the ground.

Not an earth-shattering find, but I couldn't believe my luck. My dog was not impressed, but for me it was one of the many pleasures of entomology.— D. DEY, 26 Manor Avenue, Hassocks, West Sussex.

Two interesting Oestridae (Dipt.) from the Scottish Highlands

For the two notable and uncommon flies here recorded I am indebted to my friend Prof. J.A. Owen, who most kindly passed them to me together with their data. Both species are deer parasites.

Cephenemyia trompe Modeer, female, was caught on the slopes of Cairn Gorm, on the Inverness - Banff border, in the latter part of May 1982; I provisionally determined it as this species from van Emden (1954, *Handbk. Ident. Br. Insects* 10 (4): 119), chiefly on account of its lacking the contrasted *Bombus*-like coloration of the better-known *C. auribarbis* Mg. However, Mr A.C. Pont (then of the Natural History Museum), who kindly confirmed it as the former species, tells me that the coloration varies in these flies more than has been recognised in the past. *C. trompe* is attached to the reindeer, of which introduced mammal a herd was in the vicinity of Prof. Owen's capture, the fly being taken on the wing or settled on the ground. Mr Pont knew of no definite British record of this species; but van Emden (*l.c.*) states that it has been introduced with reindeer and